

Remarks

The Applicant has withdrawn claims 50-68 in view of the restriction requirement.

In response to the rejection under section 112 of claim 44, the Applicant has amended claim 44 to clearly recite that the body of the outer muntin grid element defines the corner notch for each corner of the inner muntin grid element. This configuration is shown, for example, in Figs. 37-42 of the specification.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 23, 33, and 39 over Kassl '459. The Applicant has amended these claims and submits that the newly-amended claims are patentable over the Kassl reference regardless of whether Kassl is applied alone or in combination with Baier '743. Nothing in these references discloses, teaches, or suggests the flexible, collapsible outer muntin grid element of claim 23, the collapsible tube of claim 33, or the slit configuration of claim 39. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 44 as being anticipated by Baier '743. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection noting that the Baier muntin grid element does not define corner notches that are spaced to align with the corner of an inner muntin grid element as recited in the claim. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowance for the claims. If any issues remain after this amendment, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 13th day of May, 2003.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment B in application serial no. 09/775,074 filed June 19, 2002) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant

Commissioner for Patents,
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Fred H. Zollinger III

Version of Amendments with Markings

23. (Twice amended) A muntin grid piece adapted to be used to form a muntin bar grid for a window; the muntin grid piece comprising:
[an] a rigid inner muntin grid element;
[an] a flexible, collapsible outer muntin grid element; and
the outer muntin grid element substantially surrounding the inner muntin grid element to hide the inner muntin grid element from view on both sides of the window when the muntin grid piece is installed.

32. (Once amended) The muntin grid piece of claim [31] 23, wherein the outer muntin grid element is resilient.

33. (Once amended) A simulated divided lite insulating glazing unit having an internal muntin bar; the unit comprising:
first and second spaced glass sheets defining an insulating chamber;
a muntin bar disposed inside the insulating chamber;
the muntin bar having an inner muntin grid element and an outer muntin grid element; and
the outer muntin grid element surrounding at least three sides of the inner muntin grid element; the outer muntin grid element being a collapsible tube having an inner surface and an outer surface.

36. (Once amended) The unit of claim [35] 34, wherein the tube defines a longitudinal slit that allows the tube to be wrapped around the inner muntin grid element; the slit extending from the inner surface to the outer surface of the outer muntin grid element.

39. (Once amended) A muntin grid piece adapted to be used to form a muntin bar grid for a window; the muntin grid piece comprising:
an inner muntin grid element;
an outer muntin grid element having an inner surface and an outer surface;
the outer muntin grid element being in the form of a flexible tube disposed around the inner muntin grid element to hide the inner muntin grid element from view on both sides of the window when the muntin grid piece is installed; and
the tube defining a slit that allows the tube to be opened and wrapped around the inner muntin grid element; the slit extending from the inner surface to the outer surface.

44. (Once amended) An outer muntin grid element used to form a muntin grid piece in a simulated divided lite window; the outer muntin grid element being adapted to fold around an inner muntin grid element having a plurality of spaced corners and a cross sectional perimeter dimension measured about a cross section normal to the longitudinal direction of the inner muntin grid element; the outer [muntin] muntin grid element comprising:

- a body having a width and a longitudinal direction;
- the body having spaced, parallel longitudinal ends that define the width of the body;
- the width being substantially equal to the cross section perimeter dimension of the inner muntin grid element; and
- the body defining one corner notch for each corner of the inner muntin grid element, the corner notches being spaced apart to align with the corners of the inner muntin grid element when the body is wrapped around the inner muntin grid element.